

REMARKS

Status Summary

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-16, 18, 19, 22-34 and 36-43 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 16, and 31 are presented in independent form. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-16, 18, 19, 22-34 and 36-43 are allowed. Claims 7-9, 11-12, 15, 22, 31, and 36 are amended herein.

Claim Amendments

The claims have been amended merely to address informalities noted by the applicant after allowance. These amendments were made for reasons unrelated to the statutory requirements for a patent and have not narrowed, or even changed, the scopes of the claims. Accordingly, the amendment of these claims does not raise any presumptions regarding, nor trigger the application of, the doctrine of prosecution history estoppel to limit the range of equivalents.

Specifically, claims 7-9, 11-12, 15, 22, 31, and 36 have been amended to correct informalities in the claims. Those claims, among others, were previously amended by an Examiner's Amendment by the Primary Examiner, Jean M. Corrielus in response to an informal amendment submitted by the applicant. Claims 7-9, 11-12, 15, 22, 31, and 36 have been amended to address informalities in the same manner as in the previously submitted informal amendment.

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.312, this amendment is being filed before or with the payment of the issue fee, and may be entered on the recommendation of the Primary Examiner, approved by the Director, without withdrawing the application from issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application remains in condition for allowance. Entry and favorable consideration of the above

amendments and remarks is respectfully requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number if, after reviewing the above Remarks, the Examiner believes outstanding matters remain.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 50-3512.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 13, 2007

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